

AWiSE aims to help retain and enhance the participation of women in science, engineering and technology in industry and academia. We do this through **networking** meetings, personal development workshops, access to a **mentoring** scheme and gathering and disseminating **information**. AWiSE members come from the whole range of career stages, from undergraduates and postgraduates through to company directors and professors.

News

New Staff - Lucinda Spokes.

Following the committee's successful application to the UK Resource Centre for Women in SET, I have been appointed as the AWiSE Coordinator of the Networking and Mentoring Project. My role includes increasing people's awareness of AWiSE, organising networking meetings and publicising the MentorSET women's mentoring scheme (www.mentorset.org.uk) through a series of lunchtime talks.

I have a degree in Chemistry from Birmingham University and a Ph.D. in marine chemistry from the University of East Anglia in Norwich, which included a rather wonderful couple of months working in the bay off Rio de Janeiro. I then moved from seawater into the atmosphere and spent the next 14 years as a post-doc at UEA looking at the role of the atmosphere as a source of biologically available iron and nitrogen to phytoplankton in coastal waters and the open ocean. My field work locations were rather less exotic this time, culminating in a couple of summers spent next to Sweden's second largest nuclear power plant investigating the impact of emissions from the Danish pig industry on phytoplankton growth! Towards the end of this project, I had my first son and started working part-time. I then spent two years as part of a EU project producing a web based climate encyclopaedia for school pupils and the general public (www.espere.net), and my second son. At the end of this project I finally left UEA and spent a year at home with my children. Owen, my eldest, has just started school and this gave me the impetus to start looking for a new career direction and I'd like to thank the committee for offering me this job.

If you need any information on AWiSE or MentorSET, are happy to publicise AWiSE events where you work or have a source of contacts I can approach, please don't hesitate get in touch.

Lucy.
lspokes@hotmail.co.uk

Information

Cambridge AWiSE has agreed to support the research of Dr. Suzanne Doyle-Morris, an AWiSE member. Suzanne is conducting an on-line survey looking at the aspirations and experiences as well as the challenges and leadership issues of professional women in science and engineering. The results of the survey will be presented in a forthcoming AWiSE meeting in late November. If you would like to participate, please go to: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=407422620330>

Beyond Bias and Barriers: Fulfilling the Potential of Women in Academic Science and Engineering.

<http://www.nap.edu/catalog/11741.html>

This work presents recommendations on how to increase the representation of women in Higher Education Establishments in the USA. The summary can be downloaded and the report can be read for free on-line.

Girlfriends in High Places. Helen McCarthy.
<http://www.demos.co.uk/publications/girlfriendscatalogue>

This report examines the experience of formal networks among professional women and assesses their impact on women's occupational mobility and workplace diversity.

Forthcoming Meetings

Saturday 4 th November 2006 09:30 - 15:00
Personal Development
Strength Deployment Inventory Workshop - Rachel Tobbell UKRC.
Jesus College, Cambridge
The Strength Deployment Inventory (SDI) helps people understand their own motivations and behaviours. It also helps people resolve conflict situations. This meeting is run in association with the Women in Physics Group of the Institute of Physics. To register, email Gillian Butcher gib@star.le.ac.uk or phone 0116 252 3852.
AWiSE members £20 including lunch and course booklet.

Tuesday 7 th November 2006 18:30 - 21:30
Personal Development
Mentoring for Success.
Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge
Successful Women have often been supported by someone who has shared their time, knowledge and experience and have encouraged, inspired, challenged and believed in them. This meeting will discuss the importance of mentoring to women. Run in association with Cambridge Business Women's Network. To register, send an email to camawisemeetings@yahoo.co.uk and send a cheque, payable to "Cambridge AWiSE" to 89, High Street, Little Wilbraham, Cambridge, CB1 5JY.
AWiSE members £12, non members £16, including supper.

Tuesday 21 st November 2006 20:00 - 22:00
Annual General Meeting. Speakers to be confirmed.
Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge
Find out about AWiSE, our new constitution and perhaps even join the committee. To register, send an email to camawisemeetings@yahoo.co.uk and send a cheque, payable to "Cambridge AWiSE" to 89, High Street, Little Wilbraham, Cambridge, CB1 5JY.
AWiSE members £5, non-members £7, includes tea, coffee, port and cake.

Thursday 30 th November 2006 12:15 - 13:45
Career Paths for Women in SET
Developing the career goals of professional women in SET. Suzanne Doyle-Morris. Director, Doyle Morris Coaching.
Royal Society of Chemistry, Science Park
Dr. Doyle-Morris is a specialist in the field of women working in male-dominated environments. She has recently conducted a survey looking at the aspirations and challenges faced by professional women in SET and will discuss her findings here. To register for this meeting, send an email to camawisemeetings@yahoo.co.uk
£3 sandwich lunch.

Thursday 7 th December 2006 10:00 - 15:00
Introduction to the GetSET women database - Erica Williams UKRC.
Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge
The GetSET Women database (www.getsetwomen.org.uk) provides organisations with details of women who can be approached to speak at events, provide comment on news or sit on public boards and committees.

We will be sending further details of these meetings via the ucam-awise email list. If you have not yet joined the list, please send an email to: ucam-awise-request@lists.cam.ac.uk

MentorSET Meetings

In addition to our networking meetings at Lucy Cavendish College and at the Science Park, we will also be holding lunchtime meetings at a variety of workplaces around Cambridge. These will introduce the MentorSET women's mentoring scheme. MentorSET is a national mentoring scheme for women working in SET fields in both industry and academia. It aims to make working in SET a better experience for women and to help women succeed. If you are interested in attending one of these meetings, please let me know and I will let you know dates and times. More information on MentorSET can be found at: www.mentorset.org.uk

About the AGM and eating chocolate.

As you will have seen elsewhere in this newsletter, Lucy Spokes joined us at the beginning of Sept as our co-ordinator. She has already streamlined our publicity, produced a brochure and advertising as well as organising meetings and putting in good administrative procedures - keeping everything running smoothly. It's lovely to have her on board.

So now what do the Steering Group have to do? (Apart from eating chocolate and biscuits and drinking wine at Steering Group meetings that is.) The job of the Steering Group is to set the direction - to decide on topics and speakers for meetings. It is also responsible for making sure the Association works effectively and we raise funds to help it continue.

We have drafted a constitution and at the AGM on 21 Nov we will be asking the membership to approve the constitution. After that we will be able to apply for charity status. Once we achieve charity status, the steering group members will become the trustees.

The AGM is also an opportunity for members to raise any issues for discussion and for us to elect the membership of the Steering Group. I would like to welcome anyone who is thinking of joining the Steering Group to please get in touch (jk@bcet.co.uk). You do not need to have any particular expertise, just a

MentorSET needs more mentors...

... particularly in biology, biotechnology, biochemistry, chemistry, neuroscience, pharmacology, medicine, computing and physics.

If you would like to help other women develop and achieve success by becoming a mentor, please email Jan West, the MentorSET manager at: manager@mentorset.org.uk

willingness to contribute ideas and help when you can. I can vouch for the fact that it is very good experience, provides good transferable skills (good CV material) and is good fun - getting to meet a lot of different people (and eat chocolate and biscuits).

The Steering Group is currently made up of 10 women - a mixture of people from academia, industry, including engineers, physical scientists, life scientists and technologists. We meet six times per year in the evening.

If you would like a chat about joining the Steering Group or have any items you would like to discuss at the AGM please let me know (jk@cbet.co.uk).

best wishes
Jenny Koenig
(Chair, Cambridge AWiSE)



Previous Meetings

Career Transitions:
Science and Patent Law
Tuesday 26th September 2006.
Lucy Cavendish College
Barbara Cookson (Filemot Technology Law - www.filemot.com) and Suzanne Oliver (HLBBSHaw - www.hlbbshaw.com) spoke about their careers as patent attorneys. They discussed their scientific backgrounds, career progression and the types of work they now undertake. Both women spoke extremely enthusiastically and were happy to offer advice to those interested in this career option.

Contact Cambridge AWiSE

For information on meetings and events, send an email to:

ucam-awise-request@lists.cam.ac.uk

To contact us, email:

camawisemeetings@yahoo.co.uk

Membership costs just £20 per year for individuals, £10 for women on low wages and £5 for students. Membership gives you reduced entry fees to our meetings and access to the MentorSET women's mentoring scheme as well as supporting the running costs of AWiSE.

www.camawise.org.uk